

AN

# INAUGURAL ADDRESS

INTRODUCTORY TO

## THE COURSE ON ANATOMY

DELIVERED IN THE

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE,

Tuesday, October 11, 1859.

BY

WILLIAM H. GOBRECHT, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

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PHILADELPHIA, November 10, 1859.

PROFESSOR WM. H. GOBRECHT,

DEAR SIR: At a meeting of the Students of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College (W. Wall. Ricketts, of Pennsylvania, being called to the chair, and J. Elliott Miller, of Maryland, being appointed secretary), the undersigned committee was appointed to solicit a copy of your able, instructive, and eloquent Introductory Address for publication. Hoping that you will grant our request, we remain, most respectfully and truly,

Your obedient servants,

C. W. BACKHUS, Pennsylvania.  
JAMES A. THERREL, Mississippi.  
FRANKLIN REITZELL, Illinois.  
C. W. KELLER, Louisiana.  
I. D. DURHAM, South Carolina.  
CHARLES L. STODDARD, New York.  
WILLIAM E. CARTER, Virginia.  
T. O. BROWN, New Brunswick.  
WILLIAM M. DYKES, Georgia.  
SAMUEL POWELL, New Jersey.  
JOSEPH S. FIGAROLA, Florida.  
FRANCO. MA. MACHADO, Cuba.  
RICHARD LEFFERS, North Carolina.  
F. F. BURMEISTER, California.

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PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,  
November 12, 1859.

GENTLEMEN:—

Your very kind and complimentary note of 10th inst., requesting a copy of my Introductory Address for publication, has been received, and although it was not written with a view to its appearance in print, yet since you deem the subject, "The History of the School," of sufficient interest to desire to place its exposition upon permanent record, it affords me great satisfaction to accede to your request.

With an unfaltering belief in the continued and entire success of the Institution which I claim as a "parent," and to which you have, I trust not unwisely, attached your interests,

I am, with every sentiment of respect,

Your friend,

W. H. GOBRECHT.

To Messrs. BACKHUS, THERREL, REITZELL, and others.

## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

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GENTLEMEN: In view of the changes which have recently occurred in the immediate administration of this institution, and in reference to the existing state of its affairs, I shall, by the request of the Faculty, occupy your attention, in this, my Introductory Lecture to the course on Anatomy in the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, by a brief history of the school now under our charge, from its origin to the present time. I have acceded to this request inasmuch as such a task, though calling up many painful reflections, can not fail to bring with it, also, much pleasure to one whose feelings and actions have for a very long period been identified with its interests. I shall, therefore, allow no partisan prejudices to divert me from a rigid adherence to the truth, as set forth in the many documents which have from time to time come into my possession; and, derived from a consideration of the facts which have fallen under my personal observation.

In order that we may rightly appreciate our subject, I shall refer you, in the first instance, to the foundation of the Parent Institution, from which we derive our authority, and then, carry you downwards by successive steps to the formation of this Department and to the



present time. Thus we shall grasp the whole matter, and view it in its broadest aspect.

On the 7th of April, 1832, the Legislature of this State gave a charter to an existing "Literary and Scientific Institution in Gettysburg, Adams Co., in this Commonwealth, known as the Gettysburg Gymnasium," and enacted "that it be erected into a College for the education of youth in the learned languages, the arts, sciences, and useful literature." This college was to have the title of "Pennsylvania College of Gettysburg," and was to be under the management and direction of all persons by whose private contributions the funds had been raised and its edifice purchased, and their successors. These subscribers were to be a body politic and corporate under the title of "The Patrons of Pennsylvania College in Gettysburg, in the County of Adams."

These Patrons, who were to hold a stated meeting annually at Gettysburg, were to elect from their own number or elsewhere, a "Board of Trustees," twenty-one in number, for whose acts they were in law to be responsible.

This Board of Trustees was empowered to act as a Committee of the Patrons, with power to transact all business, under the style of "The Trustees of Pennsylvania College of Gettysburg in the County of Adams"—who shall "hold, enjoy, and exercise all such powers, authorities and jurisdictions, as are customary in other colleges within this commonwealth."

It was also ordered that this Board of Trustees should meet at least once a year at Gettysburg, at any ap-

pointed time, for the transaction of the business and concerns of the college, “particularly of making and enacting ordinances for the government and discipline of the said college; of electing the principal and professors of said college; of agreeing with them for their salaries and stipends, and removing them for incapacity, inattention to duty, for breaches of the ordinances of the Institution, or other misconduct, which shall be deemed sufficient.”

The Faculty, thus elected, were empowered “to grant and confirm, by the order or consent of a quorum of the Trustees, *such degrees* in the liberal arts and sciences, or *such branches* thereof, to such students of the college or others whom, by their proficiency in learning or other meritorious distinction, they shall regard as entitled to them—as have usually been granted in other colleges, or which a quorum of the said trustees shall think right and proper.”

Thus the Parent Institution, “Pennsylvania College of Gettysburg,” was established on a firm foundation, and went into successful existence.

Meanwhile Philadelphia, which can boast the oldest medical school in the country, had become the centre of attraction to medical students. The University of Pennsylvania, and the Medical Department of Jefferson College, were in active operation. The rivalry between these two institutions increased the energy of their respective instructors, and rendered their labors more fruitful. The younger school, instead of injuring the elder, only served to swell the tide of travel which was fast setting towards this seat of learning. Philadelphia

had gained a position which she has ever maintained, and will maintain, I trust, by the right of able teachers, now all friends, each striving to outstrip the other in the honorable race for distinction as unsurpassed instructors, with ample appliances for their tasks; and by sending forth intelligent physicians who shall truly heal the sick, and, whilst so doing, feel that here those lessons were taught and learned, which, when applied, have led them through misty pathways to a brighter day, and that here is a perennial fountain, whose sparkling waters are sweeter than the sweet waters of the Nile—an El Dorado of the East—a Mecca, to which each weary pilgrim, in the journey of professional life, shall turn with admiring and wistful glances!

But in the spring of 1839, through difficulties which it is not proper for us here to consider, the Faculty of the Jefferson Medical College was disorganized and reconstructed, and from this circumstance arose a third school, "The Medical Department of Pennsylvania College," several of the retiring Faculty, viz., Drs. George and Samuel McClellan and Dr. Samuel Colhoun, entering into combination with others to effect this object.

The process by which this was accomplished is before us in the following letter, dated Sept. 14, 1839, addressed to the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg.

Gentlemen: We, the undersigned, desirous of being organized as a Faculty for teaching the Science of Medicine in the City of Philadelphia, respectfully request the co-operation of your Board, in this undertak-



ing, and that you would, under the sanction of your charter, constitute them a Board of Regents, with full power to confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine on such persons as shall be found qualified to practice their profession, after a proper examination, and a compliance with the necessary requisitions.

The following is the proposed organization of the Faculty:—

For Anatomy and Physiology, SAMUEL GEORGE MORTON, M. D.

For Surgery, GEO. McCLELLAN, M. D.

For the Theory and Practice of Physic, WM. RUSH, M. D.

For Materia Medica and Pharmacy, SAMUEL COLHOUN, M. D.

For Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children, SAMUEL McCLELLAN, M. D.

For Chemistry, — — —.

For this last chair, Mr. WALTER R. JOHNSON has been nominated: in consequence of his absence, his acceptance is not yet certain.

With great respect, we are, gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

SAMUEL COLHOUN,  
GEORGE McCLELLAN,  
WILLIAM RUSH,  
SAMUEL GEORGE MORTON.

This communication was laid before the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania College, at a stated meeting held on Sept. 18, 1839, and referred to a committee of three, viz.,

Messrs. Gilbert, Stevens, and Schmucker, who reported as follows:—

“I. That this Board hereby establish a Medical Department in Pennsylvania College.

II. That the following gentlemen be elected professors in the several branches of medical science to be taught in this department, viz:—

S. G. MORTON, M. D., Anatomy and Physiology.

GEORGE McCLELLAN, M. D., Principles and Practice of Surgery.

S. COLHOUN, M. D., Materia Medica and Pharmacy.

W. RUSH, M. D., Theory and Practice of Physic.

SAMUEL McCLELLAN, M. D., Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

Chemistry, Vacant.

III. That the foregoing gentlemen be a committee to fill all vacancies, and make such additional appointments as may be deemed necessary.

IV. That the said professors be authorized to give their instructions in the city of Philadelphia.

V. That the Faculty of this department be authorized to confer the degree of M. D. on such persons as shall be found qualified to practice their profession, after a proper examination and compliance with the following requisitions:—(which were, however, afterwards superseded.)

VI. That the Medical Faculty make an annual report to the Board of Trustees, on the state of the Department, on or before the first of April of each year.”

Thus, gentlemen, you will perceive that just twenty



years ago, upon an application made to the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania College, its Medical Department, by their authority, came into existence, with but six chairs, physiology being combined with anatomy. To the sixth, and vacant chair, that of chemistry, Mr. Walter R. Johnson was subsequently elected, and lectures began in the fall of 1839. These lectures were delivered in the large building on the north side of Filbert Street above Eleventh.

This building was commenced in the year 1836, and was designed for a school or academy, to be called the "Chauncey Institute." Before its completion, however, it fell into the hands of Matthew Newkirk, Esq., a prominent citizen of Philadelphia, who purchased it on Dec. 30, 1837, and subsequently finished it. The first floor was handsomely fitted up for a chapel, whilst the second was adequately furnished as a library, reading-room, and museum, and M. Newkirk granted the free use of the whole building to an association of young men, called the "Philadelphia Institute," of which M. Newkirk was president. This was the first literary institute which bore that name; it was in existence for many years, and served to bring out some of the brightest talent of our country. The chapel was occupied for a long time by the Rev. Thomas H. Stockton, well known to our community.

In the fall of 1839, this building was rented to the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, having been altered by the owner to suit its convenience. The accommodations were ample, comprising basement offices, a lower lecture-room, a commodious reading-

room and museum, a neat amphitheatre with adjacent private apartments, and above all, a large dissecting-room. The occupancy of the premises was retained by the Department until its removal in the fall of 1849, to the present site.

At the termination of this first session, the graduates, I believe, amounted to twenty-two.

But before its close, the Faculty of the new Department began to fear that under the charter of the Parent Institution, the Board of Trustees had not sufficient power to establish it, and accordingly, to render its existence certain, by the permission of the said Board, they obtained from the Legislature, in March, 1840, an act confirmatory of their appointment, and authorizing the Medical Faculty of Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg, to confer degrees in Philadelphia.

Thus its foundation became permanent; every doubt concerning the validity of its diploma was swept away; its alumni were placed upon the same platform as that occupied by the alumni of other medical schools, and it became an Institution in our midst, subordinate indeed, to its Parent, but encouraged by her watchful care and influence.

The original faculty who had charge of this Department, with the substitution of Dr. Rob't Montgomery Bird, in 1841, vice S. Colhoun, dec'd, continued at the head of its affairs until 1843 (four sessions). But during this time differences of opinion had arisen which finally created such unpleasant feeling among its members that it became impossible for them to work harmoniously; in consequence of which the several members,

during August and September of that year, successively sent up their resignations to the Appointing Board.

Here, indeed, was a sad state of affairs; just as the session was about to open, the laborers had abandoned the field; and destruction impended. What could be done? Were all the bright hopes so fondly cherished to be blasted, and this rising Institution blotted out forever? The day was dark! very dark! But the Guardians of the Parent School were not willing that this rising offspring should perish without an effort at rescue; and at once, on September 20th of the same year (1843), in view of the resignations:

1st. Declared the faculty to be dissolved.

But mark this—they did not abandon the Department, for immediately they

2dly. Resolved. That the members of the late Faculty, or a majority of them, are hereby authorized to appoint a new Faculty, either from amongst themselves or others, who shall constitute the Faculty of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College.

Thus you perceive this Board desired the perpetuity of its Department, and trusted that a re-organization could be effected which would include at least a majority of those who had been already devoted to its interests.

But this hope of re-organization was swept away; no such result could be effected. Time was fast rolling on; if the doors of the halls of science were once suffered to rust upon their hinges, perhaps no future effort could avail to save the tottering structure.

Fortunately, at this eventful period, it appears that



several well-qualified gentlemen had been engaged in giving medical instruction during the previous summer months, and were about to engage in the same duties during the winter.

Four of these gentlemen, viz., Drs. Darrach, Grant, Patterson, and Wiltbank, having learned that the Charter of the Medical Department might be transferred to them, abandoned their previous idea of a separate organization for the winter; and expressed their willingness and desire to assume the regency of the school. The 31st of October had now arrived, and yet no faculty had been appointed. How dim were the prospects for a class, even could an organization be effected! Yet nothing daunted, they presented themselves by a committee before the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Prof. D. Gilbert, soliciting, as was proper, the appointment from the Board. But the Board was not in session, and would not convene again until April of the next year; and could not be called together for a special purpose under at least four weeks, and then perhaps no quorum would appear.

What could be done? The Medical Department seemed destined to destruction. To call a special meeting and await the action of a quorum—by that time the period for the collection of a class would have long passed by. At this critical moment, with happy thoughtfulness, the Secretary of the Board directed their attention to the fact that the Trustees had already empowered the retiring Faculty, or a majority of them, to appoint their successors, who might be themselves or others, and at once communicated his views to the re-

tiring Dean, begging him to take action in the matter, for the sake of the Parent Institution.

Here, then, the way was again clear. But it was impossible to obtain a meeting of a majority of the late Faculty, from sickness and absence from the city.

However, this difficulty was not insuperable, and the following document, subject to the confirmation of the Board at their spring meeting, was obtained:—

“The undersigned, late members of the Faculty of Pennsylvania Medical College, in this city, do hereby relinquish all right to, and use of, the charter of said institution, in favor of a new Faculty, to be composed of Wm. Darrach, Henry S. Patterson, Wm. R. Grant, and John Wiltbank and their colleagues.

(Signed)

SAMUEL GEORGE MORTON,  
GEORGE McCLELLAN,  
SAMUEL McCLELLAN,  
WM. RUSH.

PHILA., Nov. 6th, 1843.”

This was obtained on November 6th, 1843. At 8 o'clock P. M. of same day, this new Faculty assembled, organized, and acknowledged to the proper authorities their appointments.

The Department, then, even at that late day, namely, *November 6th*, was saved from ruin. But there were only four members, yet six chairs. How could they go on? The appointment of competent and attractive colleagues is always a delicate and difficult task, and frequently requires time for deliberation. Their professorial distribution was as follows:—

Theory and Practice, W. DARRACH.

Materia Medica and Therapeutics, H. S. PATTERSON.

Anatomy and Physiology, W. R. GRANT.

Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children,  
JOHN WILTBANK.

The chairs of Chemistry and Surgery were to be filled. Accordingly, for the time, they determined to supply the deficiency themselves. Prof. Darrach, therefore, besides his own particular branch, expounded the Principles of Surgery, whilst Prof. Grant lectured upon Operative Surgery, and Prof. Patterson manipulated amongst the Chemicals.

They were then in full order for action, and had entered the field determined to succeed. Their first class, of course sadly influenced by preceding events, numbered 23 students, and, in the spring of 1844, they graduated 7, holding their Commencement, for the first and only time, in the lower lecture-room of the college building.

In the meantime, as you may suppose, they were not idle in making selections to fill the vacant chairs. Dr. Gilbert, who had been teaching Anatomy at Gettysburg, and without whose influence, perhaps, the Department would have had no existence in the beginning, nor have been saved from ruin at this critical period, was offered the chair of Surgery, and Dr. W. L. Atlee, who had been, in addition to his professional duties, for several years, successfully engaged in lecturing on Chemistry, at the Lyceum of the City of Lancaster, was offered the remaining vacant post. Dr. Atlee accepted before the termination of the course, whilst Dr. Gilbert, who could not decide, as yet, to make a permanent change, agreed



to lecture during the next session, which he accordingly did, and finally, after its close, in 1845, decided his connection with the institution.

We therefore find that, at the beginning of the second session (1844-5), the six chairs were filled satisfactorily, and prospects brightened. The sessions continued to be held in the same building until the spring of 1849, the matriculants and graduates increasing steadily nearly every year. Thus, the graduates at the Commencement, in 1844, were 7, and were successively 14, 36, 32, 40, and 36, which brings us up to the spring of 1849.

At this time, the Department seemed to be so well established, notwithstanding its untoward location, at a distance from the Hospital, which was and is properly the great clinical school, as well as away from the public libraries and the other institutions, that it was deemed a proper period to procure a permanent, newer, more commodious, and more central building. To this end, the Legislature, at the instance of the Faculty and friends of the Department, passed a bill, which was approved on the 29th of March, 1849, to incorporate certain persons as the "Trustees of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College," whose duty should be to raise funds, purchase a lot or lots, and erect thereon a building or buildings for the accommodation of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, and to hold the same for their use.

You will see, therefore, gentlemen, that there are two Boards of Trustees connected with this Department—one, the Parent Board, from which our authority is derived, and to which we are subordinate, located at Get-

tysburg; the other local, simply "to hold property for the use of the Department."

No sooner had this bill been approved than active efforts were made to realize the hopes of its friends. The money was raised, a lot was secured, and the cornerstone of the building in which we are now assembled (as I find by the announcement for the session of '49-50) "was laid on the 31st of May, 1849, by Morris Patterson, Esq., President of the Board of Trustees, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Cuyler, President of Jefferson College, and Rev. Dr. Ludlow, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, in presence of the Medical Faculties of the University, Jefferson and Pennsylvania Colleges, the Physicians and Surgeons of the Pennsylvania Hospital and Wills' Hospital, and a large concourse of professional gentlemen. The address was delivered by Prof. Jackson." I was present on the occasion, and witnessed the proceedings. The statement is correct.

The work was prosecuted with so much vigor that, though not entirely completed, the building was ready for occupation at the succeeding session. What delightful anticipations must these gentlemen have indulged in, as they stood here at their lecture-desks for the first time, with all modern conveniences at their command, their location excellent, their accommodations unsurpassed. Their class was larger than ever, and their graduates were 34. During the next summer, their Museum was received and arranged, and they were, it was hoped, permanently settled for the future, and success was looked upon as a fixed fact. In 1851, their graduates were 36; in 1852, 35.

Up to this Commencement, the Faculty had maintained an unbroken front. They had worked together for nine years, for, if they differed at all as to the policy of the institution, these differences did not publicly appear. But a great change was about to take place. Prof. Atlee had already presented his resignation for acceptance, "from the incompatibility of Chemistry with his increasing professional duties;" and on the 28th of March, 1852, the beloved Grant, than whom no more consistent Christian ever lived, breathed his last, a victim of professional self-sacrifice.

Just a year previously to his death, Prof. Grant had proposed a separation of his branches, and that a new and seventh chair, that of "Histology and General Physiology," should be added to the school, in order that his labors might be properly lightened, and the school placed on such a basis that it might stand more directly on the same platform as the sister schools; and now, as changes were inevitable, it was deemed a proper period to effect them. A chair of the "Institutes of Medicine" was, therefore, created, and the vacancies were filled.

Accordingly, Dr. J. M. Allen, in earlier years Demonstrator of Anatomy in Jefferson Medical College, for a long time recognized as the most successful private teacher of Anatomy in this city, and who then conducted the Philadelphia School of Anatomy, in College Avenue, lecturing nightly to overflowing classes during the winter, besides lecturing in the summer months in the "Philadelphia Association for Medical Instruction," was appointed Professor of Anatomy.

The chair of Chemistry was filled by the appointment



of Dr. John J. Reese, a successful lecturer on *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics*, in the "Medical Institute," and Dr. F. G. Smith, a highly popular and pleasing lecturer of the "Philadelphia Association," was elected to the new chair of Institutes.

With this able and promising Faculty, new blood seemed infused into the Institution, and the session of 1852-3 opened with unusual prospects; the course of lectures was certainly brilliant, and at its termination, the graduates were 55 in number, and the matriculants were found to have reached 148.

Could it be possible for such a combination to lose ground? The Institution had, however, only survived one blow to receive another. In Sept. 1853, Dr. H. S. Patterson—one of the brightest stars in that firmament, the graceful writer and the profound thinker, the admired and beloved of all who knew him—who had been breaking in health for several years, being unable to continue, "though long hoping against hope," withdrew from active participation in teaching, to die in the ensuing spring.

Dr. John B. Biddle, formerly professor in the Franklin Medical College, and there well known as an able and forcible lecturer, was elected to fill his place.

With this new arrangement, the session of 1853-4 was completed.

And a dark time had set in, still darker than any the school had yet witnessed. The school, although successful, had not quite come up to the mark which was fixed for it, and it became a matter of serious and absorbingly painful interest, to determine the causes, not

of its failure, for it never failed, but of its delayed fruition. Gentlemen, I do not wish, nor do I intend, to enter into the merits of the trying scenes which ensued. I shall pass no criticism on the actions of contending parties; relationship and many acts of kindness on the one hand; and friendship made visible on the other, alike demand my prudential silence. Would to God that the cloud no bigger than a man's hand had been scattered, ere it slowly rolled itself into a blackened and lowering mass, accumulating force as it sped onward, till no power could stay it, and no prayer avert the impending danger.

The storm, involving both Faculty and students, came; the Parent Institution intervened; the law sustained its course; and the session of 1854-5 opened with a partial re-organization of the Faculty. Prof. Gilbert, at his own request, was transferred from Surgery to the chair of Obstetrics, and Dr. John Neill, formerly Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University, and a Surgeon to the Pennsylvania Hospital, was appointed to the thus vacant chair; whilst Dr. Alfred Stillé, a gentleman of great literary and professional ability, a former lecturer in the Philadelphia Association and a Hospital Physician, was elected to the chair of Practice.

In 1856, the precarious state of Prof. Allen's health determined his withdrawal from the school in and for which he had so unreservedly put forth his strength, and his place was filled by Dr. T. G. Richardson, formerly Demonstrator of Anatomy at Louisville, who retained the post until appointed, in 1858, Prof. of Anatomy in the Medical Department of the University of Louisiana.

This chair was then filled by Dr. John H. B. McClellan, the worthy son of that distinguished father who founded both the Jefferson Medical College and the Medical Department of the Pennsylvania.

This narrative brings us down to the close of last session—the spring of 1859—to a period when the success and reputation of the school was in no way impaired; and the confidence of the medical world in its stability had been completely established.

At this time, the late Faculty, for reasons which it is not my province to discuss, and which, indeed, have not, that I am aware of, been officially given to the world, determined to relinquish their management of affairs, and communicated their decision to the Parent Board, at its meeting in April last.

The fact that changes were about to take place, was, by friends of the Institution, intimated to the present Faculty (who had been for some time conducting a Medical School, with the decided approbation, as to their course, of the Medical Profession.)

And it was also intimated that they might, in all probability, if they thought it desirable, enter the field which would be opened.

As we were then seriously discussing a change to a more favorable location, which our success seemed to warrant, we, after proper deliberation, presented our claims to the same Board, who (as ever, alive to the interests of this Department, and unwilling that its promising career should be terminated), by their partiality, and, we sincerely trust, by an unerring judgment, placed us in the position we now occupy.



Thus, gentlemen, I have directed your attention to the History of our School, I trust in no unkindly spirit. If the record has proved its existence to have been checkered with varying shades of light and dark: now, threatened with destruction, and then, rising triumphantly above its disastrous circumstances—it is not without parallel. A reference to the Historical Sketch of the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania, published in 1836, will show, that that great school had its times of trial and tribulation; it had its long period of probation; it had its difficulties, differences of opinion, resignations and deaths to contend against.

The Jefferson Medical College, now in such successful operation, during the first fifteen years of existence, as is well known, and may be learned by a glance at Prof. Gross's Inaugural in 1856, "had experienced many reverses, several of which shook its very foundation, and materially impeded its prosperity, if in truth they did not seriously threaten its very existence."

But each school has weathered its storms, and I cannot avoid a feeling of pleasure, when I perceive notwithstanding the frequently adverse circumstances of our own, that through all its difficulties and trials, whatever may be thought of their intrinsic merits, it has commanded a patronage which is a sure test of the worth of its faculties as instructors.

It has passed, like all other schools, through its first troubled twenty years of infancy, and now enters with renewed energy its majority; and if excited factions ever strove for supremacy within its walls, and sorrow-

ing hearts turned despondingly from its accustomed places—all is now well.

But whilst we prosper, let us not forget that our antecedents are worthy of remembrance.

That such men as the bold, the fearless, and the energetic McClellan—the calm and the erudite Morton—the faithful and the endeared Grant—and the brilliant and the never-to-be-forgotten Patterson, for whom we may drop a silent tear—have labored in the cause before us, and passed beyond our earthly recognition.

That each gentleman who has preceded us has enacted his part to the best of his great ability, for the ultimate and permanent success of the Institution.

In conclusion, gentlemen, allow me a word, personal in its character.

As a former student and an alumnus of this Institution, I feel a more than ordinary interest in its success; when, years ago, I sat upon the benches of the amphitheatre in Filbert St., I fondly hoped that some day I might prove worthy of the able teachers who with unfaltering effort, and unabated zeal, labored for the men who sought their halls. Yet I never even dreamed that at a future day I should be so honored as to fill a chair in my own Alma Mater. But time has rolled round, and I am here to day, an honest and true-hearted son, who would maintain the honor, the reputation and the interests of his mother, against the world. The diploma, which granted to me the right to practice Medicine, depends for its value, in a great measure, on the life and continued existence of my parent.

Gentlemen Alumni, have *you* no interest here? Yours and mine are mutual.

My colleagues are experienced and able. I have worked with them long, and I wish no truer men. Since I cast my lot with theirs I have experienced pleasure only, and I am willing to intrust the reputation of my professional mother in their hands.

As for myself, I am proud to say, that whilst health and strength shall give me power, my greatest and my highest aspiration shall be to add to her glory and renown.

But, gentlemen, alumni, and friends, to do this we need other than our own exertions—we need *your* assistance. Will you give it? Shall we not make *this* a great school?